

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 23, 2013

W. Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate:

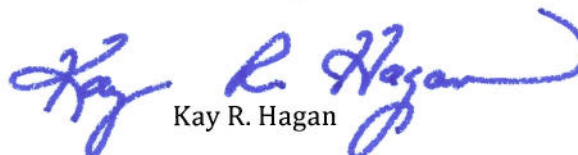
I am writing in support of an appeal by Michael Sprayberry, Director of Emergency Management at the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, to FEMA's denial of requested aid for Catawba, Lincoln, and Wilkes counties in North Carolina pursuant to severe storms and flooding that took place in the region in July. Although FEMA issued Public Assistance Declaration FEMA-4146-DR-NC for events occurring in western North Carolina from July 3 to 13, it denied assistance for related storms and floods that took place in several other counties in the area between July 14 and 27.

FEMA issued a denial for a Major Disaster Declaration for Catawba, Lincoln, and Wilkes counties on September 26, 2013, after finding that the Preliminary Damage Assessments completed in the area shortly after the storms did not meet the state threshold of \$13,662,150 for assistance. However, in subsequent joint Preliminary Damage Assessments completed in partnership with FEMA and state agencies between October 2 and 9, the North Carolina Department of Emergency Management identified additional damages of \$14,032,770. These damages clearly exceed the state's threshold and warrant a finding by FEMA that public assistance funds are necessary in response to these incredibly damaging storms and floods.

As a result of these harmful weather occurrences in July, territories in western North Carolina sustained significant damage to their property infrastructure and disruptions to critical services, along with a number of road washouts, sinkholes, and impassable bridges. I appreciate the Public Assistance Declaration that has already been made for 13 counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in response to these events, but I firmly believe that additional assistance is necessary for remaining counties in the region.

I respectfully urge you to make this declaration for Catawba, Lincoln, and Wilkes counties to assist North Carolina to quickly and fully recover from the devastating storms and floods that impacted the area in July. I thank you in advance for your prompt consideration.

Sincerely,



Kay R. Hagan